

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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NEA/RA - COL. MUNDY

OSD/PA - COL. ALLISON

PA/PG - MR. BROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

CINCLANT PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

DET 4 AFSCF OL9 MAHE SEYCHELLES PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, KE, SE, US, UK, XO

SUBJECT: PORT VISITS FOR INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

1. FOLLOWING RELEASE WAS MADE AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NEWS BRIEFING AT 11 A.M. THIS MORNING:

"SIX U.S. NAVY SHIPS THAT COMPRISE A TASK GROUP OF THE
SEVENTH FLEET OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL SPEND
THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN PORTS OF MOMBASA,
KENYA, IN EAST AFRICA, AND PORT VICTORIA IN THE SEYCHELLES
ISLANDS.

THE CARRIER ORISKANY, THE GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER
BUCHANAN, THE DESTROYER ESCORT ROBERT E. PEARY WILL VISIT
MOMBASA, DECEMBER 22-27. THE REPLENISHMENT OILER, USS
WICHITA IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE TWO DAYS LATER.

THE GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE ENGLAND AND THE DESTROYER
ESCORT HAROLD E. HOLT WILL VISIT PORT VICTORIA, CAPITAL
CITY OF THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS, DURING THE SAME PERIOD.
THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS ARE LOCATED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN
APPROXIMATELY 990 MILES EAST OF MOMBASA.

THE SHIPS HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN
SINCE EARLY DECEMBER. MOMBASA AND PORT VICTORIA WILL BE
THE FIRST PORTS OF CALL FOR THE SHIPS.

2. EMBASSIES MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S IN
RESPONDING TO FURTHER QUERIES REGARDING THESE PORT VISITS:

Q. HOW MANY SEVENTH FLEET SHIPS DO YOU HAVE
OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A. WE HAVE ONE CARRIER AND FOUR DESTROYERS PLUS A
LOGISTIC SUPPORT SHIP IN THE TASK GROUP. ON A GIVEN DAY
THE NUMBER MAY GO UP AS THE SUPPORT SHIPS ARE REPLACED
AS REQUIRED.

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Q. WILL THERE BE OTHER PORT VISITS AFTER THESE TO
MOMBASA AND PORT VICTORIA? WHERE WILL THE SHIPS GO
AFTER THE PORT VISITS?

A. OUR POLICY IS TO REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING WHAT
OUR SHIPS MAY OR MAY NOT BE DOING IN THE FUTURE.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE VISITS?

A. THESE ARE INFORMAL VISITS DESIGNED TO GIVE THE CREWS SOME REST AND RECREATION DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THE SHIPS WILL ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM NECESSARY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS THAT CAN'T BE DONE UNDERWAY.

Q. HOW LONG HAVE THE SHIPS BEEN AT SEA?

A. EXCEPT FOR WICHITA, THE TASK GROUP WILL HAVE BEEN AT SEA FOR ABOUT 26 DAYS. THE SHIPS LEFT SUBIC ON NOVEMBER 26. WICHITA LEFT SUBIC DECEMBER 6, OR 18 DAYS AT SEA BY THE TIME SHE ARRIVES AT MOMBASA.

Q. HOW MANY MEN ARE ABOARD THE SHIPS VISITING EACH PORT?

A. APPROXIMATELY 4,000 (360 OFF/3,840 ENL) VISITING MOMBASA AND 555 (48/507) VISITING PORT VICTORIA.

Q. ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED DURING THE VISITS?

A. FOR THE MOMBASA VISIT, ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN NAIROBI FOR VISITS TO THE MAINLAND, TO NAIROBI, AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST SUCH AS WILD ANIMAL PRESERVES, THE SHIPS IN BOTH PORTS ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR HOSTS--RECEPTIONS, SHIP TOURS,

ATHLETIC CONTESTS, AND TOURS ASHORE FOR THE CREW. WE DON'T HAVE WORD ON ANY FIRM ARRANGEMENTS.

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Q. WILL THE SHIPS RECEIVE FUEL FROM THESE PORTS?

A. THERE ARE NO SUCH PLANS AT PRESENT. THE SHIPS RECEIVE THEIR FUEL FROM OUR OWN MOBILE LOGISTIC SUPPORT SHIPS SUCH AS WICHITA.

Q. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME U.S. NAVY SHIPS VISITED THESE PORTS?

A. WE DO NOT HAVE A RECORD OF THE LAST VISITS, BUT WE KNOW THAT VISIT FROM SEVENTHFLT SHIPS HAVE NOT OCCURRED IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. RUSH

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